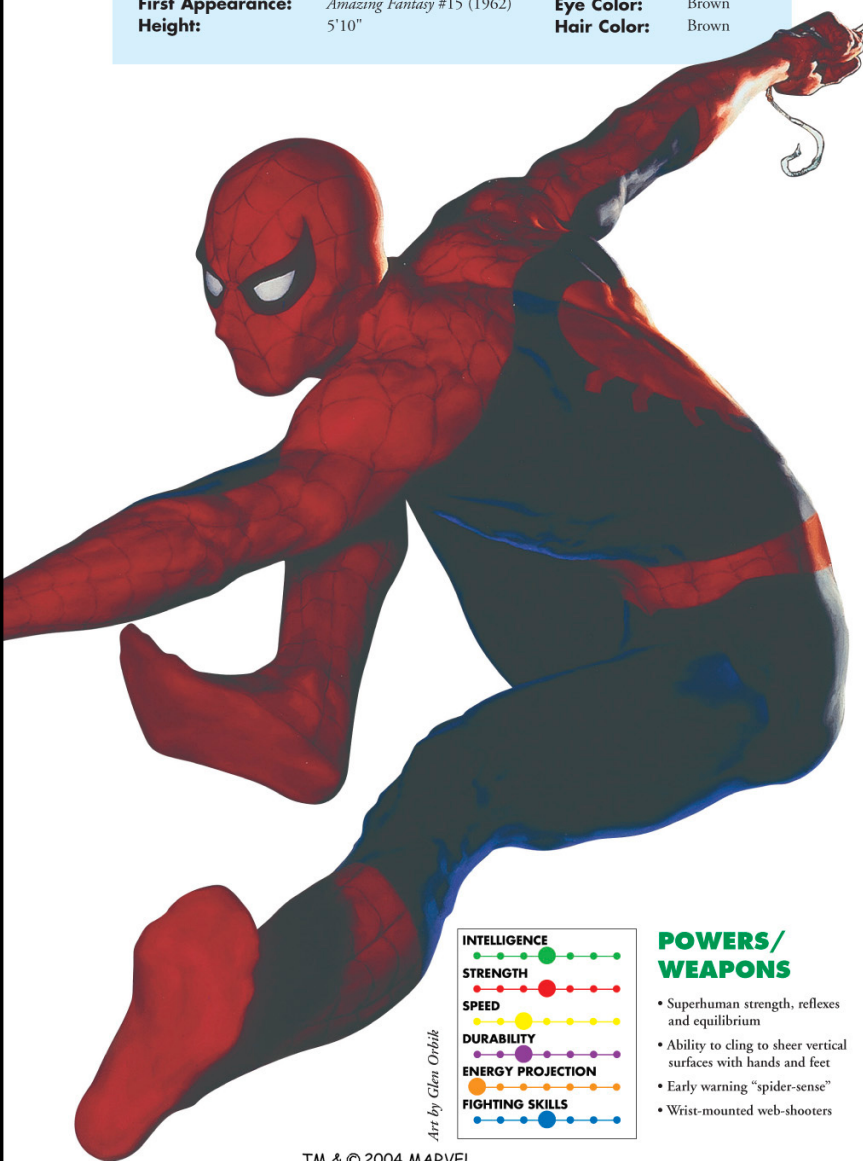


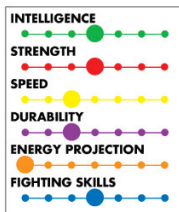
SPIDER-MAN

Real Name: Peter Parker
First Appearance: *Amazing Fantasy* #15 (1962)
Height: 5'10"

Weight: 165 lbs.
Eye Color: Brown
Hair Color: Brown



Art by Glen Orlik



POWERS/ WEAPONS

- Superhuman strength, reflexes and equilibrium
- Ability to cling to sheer vertical surfaces with hands and feet
- Early warning "spider-sense"
- Wrist-mounted web-shooters

Amazing Fantasy #15, August 1962



Orphaned at a young age, Peter Parker was raised by his [Uncle Ben](#) and [Aunt May](#) as if he were their own son. Exceptionally bright, Peter was also extremely shy. A social outcast with few friends, he sought solace in his studies. During a demonstration on radiation, a spider wandered into the radiation source and became irradiated. Dying, the spider fell on Peter's hand and bit him.

Peter slowly realized the bite had changed him: He now possessed spectacular spider-like abilities. Seeing his powers as a chance to earn money to help Aunt May and Uncle Ben, Peter designed a colorful costume and pursued stardom as the Amazing Spider-Man.

Leaving the TV studio following a taping, Peter chose to mind his own business when he encountered a burglar fleeing the scene of a robbery.

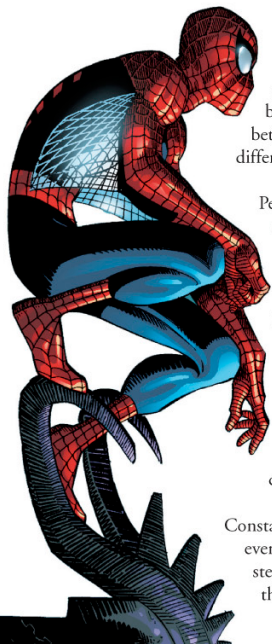
Though he could have stopped the man, Peter allowed him to pass, arrogantly believing it was not his responsibility. Several days later, he returned home from a performance only to discover that an intruder had murdered his uncle. Learning police had cornered the hoodlum in a nearby warehouse, a distraught Peter donned his Spider-Man costume and desperately rushed off to confront his uncle's killer.

Employing his newfound abilities to capture the burglar, Peter realized the thief was the same criminal he had allowed to escape. Filled with remorse, Peter finally understood that with great power, there must also come great responsibility—and he vowed never to shirk his heroic responsibilities again.

Spider-Man became one of New York's first costumed heroes, and Peter earned money to help Aunt May provide for their family by selling photographs of himself in action to the *Daily Bugle*. Publisher [J. Jonah Jameson](#) has used Peter's photos to wage a non-stop campaign to smear Spider-Man's name since his first appearance, but his crusade has largely failed to change positive public opinion.

Because of his powers, Peter can never live a normal life. He is always torn between his duties as Spider-Man and his life as Peter. In virtually every instance, the weight of Spider-Man's responsibilities wins out. While his relationship with Aunt May has always been a casualty of his double life, the most severe blow to his personal life came after the [Green Goblin](#) discovered his secret identity, and kidnapped and killed Peter's first love Gwen Stacy. Gwen's death has haunted Peter ever since—a constant, tragic reminder of the danger of his double life and the fate that awaits anyone he allows to get too close.

SPIDER-MAN



As Peter matured, so did his relationship with his on-again, off-again girlfriend **Mary Jane Watson**. The two dated seriously for many years and ultimately committed to a long-term romance. But as before, Spider-Man's influence meant Peter had to divide his loyalties between Mary Jane and his costumed identity. Unable to resolve their differences, the couple has separated.

Peter's life as Spider-Man is not all gloom and doom. While a tremendous responsibility, being Spider-Man is also a release for Peter, an exhilarating adventure that allows him to leave his everyday troubles behind and swing from rooftops while battling criminals with webs and wisecracks. Despite the personal tragedy he has endured, Peter truly loves being Spider-Man.

For years, Peter hid his dual identity from Aunt May, sheltering her from the truth for fear it would harm her and damage their relationship. When Aunt May finally learned that Peter is Spider-Man, the two came to a new understanding, and May became one of Spider-Man's strongest supporters. She still worries about Peter constantly, but is now even more proud of her nephew.

Constantly balancing his responsibility as a hero with his personal life, and ever ready with a wisecrack to hide his personal struggles, Peter remains steadfast in living up to the responsibility that his great powers have thrust upon him, donning his Spider-Man costume for the good of all.



ESSENTIAL READING

- *Amazing Spider-Man: The Death of Gwen Stacy* TPB
- *Amazing Spider-Man Vol. I: Coming Home* TPB
- *Amazing Spider-Man Vol. II: Revelations* TPB
- *Amazing Spider-Man Vol. III: Until the Stars Turn Cold* TPB
- *Amazing Spider-Man Vol. IV: The Life & Death of Spiders* TPB
- *The Best of Spider-Man Vol. I* HC
- *Essential Spider-Man Vol. I-V*
- *Spider-Man: Blue* HC

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